

Malden Historic District
(202 Wise Drive - Malden Missionary Baptist Church)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-38

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39-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department Of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 202 Wise Drive HABS No. WV-210-38

Location: 202 Wise Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner: Malden Missionary Baptist Church, Trustee

Present Use: Place of worship

Significance: This virtually unaltered church building was built on a lot donated by Nathan Slack following a "brush-arbor" revival in 1876. The bell is original and was formerly used for alarms when needed. This building, built four years after the nearby African Zion Baptist Church which it very closely resembles, makes a major contribution to the character of the historic district.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This church building, dating from 1876, bears many stylistic resemblances to the African Zion Baptist Church one block to the east. Both churches are of frame construction clad in white-painted clapboards and have segmentally arched window frames and short belfries with pyramidal roofs. Both date from the same decade, this building having been constructed four years after the other.
2. Condition of fabric: Maintained with moderate care.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This building is approximately 35'-0" in width and 50'-4" in depth, not including the building to the south of the church proper and the connecting link between them. The church proper is a simple rectangle in plan, the major portion of which is the sanctuary space.
2. Foundations: Foundations are stone piers. Between the piers are screening panels consisting of vertical wooden planks arranged edge-to-edge.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are of wooden construction with clapboards, trim and doors painted white.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: No porches exist even though the floor level is well above grade. Narrow flights of steps lead from level up to each of the two doors on the north front.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Two identical entrances occur on the north wall, each having two doors topped by an opaque transom panel. The top member of the entrance frame is slightly arched. Each door is a simple, two-panel wooden door.
- b. Windows and shutters: Windows on the east, west and south walls are aluminum-framed sash units, each having an arched wooden frame similar to that found at each front doorway.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a gabled roof topped by a short, square belfry atop which is a short pyramidal steeple whose roof exhibits two different degrees of pitch. The pitch is shallower for the apron around the base of the belfry roof. Roofing material is standing-seam metal painted black.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Both the gabled roof and the steeple roof overhang their respective walls, the soffits of the latter being horizontal while those of the former slope upward as the roof slopes. In both cases, the soffits are planar and undecorated.
- c. Towers: The belfry/steeple is described above.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The front faces north directly abutting Wise Drive. Immediately to the west is a graveled parking lot.
2. Outbuildings: The church proper is attached to a concrete block building located immediately to the south.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
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PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.